

REMARKS

Claim 3 has been amended to include the feature that the ferrite powder has a particle size which permits each of the ferrite particles to remain a single domain particle. This is described in the specification at, for instance, page 5, line 7-9. In addition, a series of claims specifying that the composite magnetic material is a sintered material has also been submitted for consideration by the Examiner.

A sintered ferrite member material has a magnetization mechanism in which it passes through the stage of magnetic domain wall motion relaxation in order to reach the state of rotational magnetization resonance starting from a low frequency to a high frequency in an AC magnetic field. The Q decreases sharply at a frequency in which the magnetic wall motion relaxation occurs and further decreases towards the rotational magnetization resonance point. In order to maintain a high Q value up to a frequency band of several GHz, it is first necessary to stop the magnetic domain wall motion completely and then shift the rotational magnetization resonance frequency to a frequency which is higher than the frequency band of the several GHz.

The present invention is based on the determination by the inventors that the degradation in the value of Q by the magnetic domain wall motion can be completely stopped by dispersing a ferrite powder in a non-magnetic matrix if the powder has a particle size which allows each of the ferrite particles to remain a single domain particle. In general, the maximum dimension in each particle in the powder will be about 3 μm .

It was also determined that when a part of a nickel ferrite is substituted by cobalt, the rotational magnetization resonance frequency can be made higher by

increasing the substitution amount of the cobalt. The inventors recognize that properties favorable for a core for a high-frequency inductor can be obtained by combining the cobalt substitution feature with the single domain particle feature.

A review of the prior art cited in the 35 U.S.C. 102/103 rejections (Watanabe, JP '131 A, JP '711 A, Uchikoba) has failed to reveal any teaching or suggestion that the particles of the ferrite powder have a size such that the particles remain a single domain particle. Since there is a failure to teach or suggest this feature of the invention, all of the rejections are respectfully submitted to be untenable.

Beyond the foregoing, it is believed that all of the arguments presented in the prior amendment were correct and they are incorporated into this response by reference. The only addition comment which appears appropriate is to note that the applicants did not argue that the presence of a § 103 rejection over Watanabe meant that this was not a 102 reference. The point which applicants were making is that a generic disclosure does not make a reference anticipatory because under that approach, a claim to a genus would inherently disclose all species. There is no single embodiment explicitly meeting all of the limitations in claims 3 and 4 prior to the foregoing amendment and therefore a rejection based on the theory that the reference is anticipatory because it is generic to the invention is not valid.

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In light of all of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn and a Notice of Allowance should be issued.

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Respectfully submitted,

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